

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Production of Pulses

***1375. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that production of pulses in the country is far below the requirement of the country;
- (b) if so, the average gap between production and demand;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that production of pulses has been almost stable for the last few years;
- (d) if so, whether any measures had been taken by Government for increasing the production of pulses during the past few years; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESO NAIK): (a) and (b) It is a fact that the production of pulses is less than the requirement of pulses in the country, because of several constraints like cultivation of pulses by small and marginal farmers, on marginal lands and under rainfed conditions.

The Working group on demand and supply projection of Agricultural commodities and improvement of Agricultural statistics for the formulation of Ninth Five Year Plan has estimated the requirement of pulses for the terminal year of the Ninth plan i.e. 2001-2002 at 17.20 million tonnes based on the normative approach and at 19.50 million tonnes based on the behaviour stic approach at GDP growth rate of 7%.

The average gap between production and demand of pulses in the country at present is about 3 million tonnes.

- (c) to (e) The production of pulses in the country remained

^tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.

fluctuating during last 5 years as may be seen from the figures given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Production (in lakh Tonnes)</i>
1996-97	142.44
1997-98	129.79
1998-99	148.91
1999-2000	133.50
2000-2001	110.60

For increasing the production and productivity of pulses in the country, a Centrally sponsored scheme NPDp is under implementation in 30 States/U.T. The scheme envisage financial assistance to the State for production and distribution of seed, seed minikits, rhizobium culture, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements etc. In addition, field demonstration and farmers training are also being organised for transfer of improved production and protection technology to the farmers field for increasing the production of pulses in the country.

Floods in Orissa

1376. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods in Orissa this year were worse than those in 1982, as these affected more than 40 lakh people, more than 5 lakh marooned, 7200 villages flooded and level of water at the Hirakund reservoir is rising consistently;

(b) whether Orissa Government has sent as SOS to the Centre for an ad-hoc finance assistance of Rs. 200 crore as flood situation is worsening and death toll climbing to 31; and

(c) if so, whether Centre propose to give more financial aid and also relax the overdraft norms in case of Orissa?